

Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts
Including the towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales
Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
STURBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT (0287)

I. INTRODUCTION

Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 School Districts are committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from bullying and cyberbullying, where all school community members treat one another with respect and appreciate the rich diversity in our schools. This commitment is an integral part of Tantasqua Regional/Union 61's comprehensive efforts to promote learning, eliminate all forms of violent, harmful, and disruptive behavior and enable students to achieve their personal and academic potential and become successful members of our increasingly diverse society.

Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts are committed to providing programs that promote students' academic, civic, social, emotional, and physical development.

To accomplish this mission, our schools will:

- Build communities of learners in which respect is fostered for each other, the school, and the community.
- Prepare students for their roles in society by ensuring that they can communicate effectively in all the disciplines, think critically, and solve problems.
- Promote responsible participation in a democracy.

II. LEADERSHIP

Leadership at all levels of the Tantasqua/Union 61 School Districts played a critical role in developing and implementing the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan in the context of other whole school and community efforts to promote positive school climates.

Leaders have a primary role in teaching students to be civil to one another and in promoting understanding of and respect for diversity and difference. Leadership includes Central Office Administrators and Building Based Leadership Teams. Leadership is responsible for setting priorities and for staying up-to-date with current research on ways to prevent and effectively respond to bullying. It is also the role of leaders to involve representatives from the greater school and local community in developing and implementing the Plan. The locally based School Improvement Councils will review the plan and provide feedback from parent and community perspectives.

Plan Development: The following plan was developed by educators and other members of the Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School District communities. Data on current pro-social programs, bullying prevention initiatives, school wide climate goals, and school based parent and student feedback was reviewed and incorporated into the plan. A review of student data related to bullying was also conducted. Where there were identified needs, the Principals in each building were responsible for creating action steps to address the needs. With the support of all members of the Leadership Team, each school has received access to needed materials, training, and ongoing support that will allow them to maintain a positive and safe school climate. The draft plan was posted on the District website and all members of the school and greater community were encouraged to give feedback on the plan.

Priority Statements:

- The Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 Districts expect that all members of the school community will treat each other in a civil manner and with respect for differences.
- The Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 Districts are committed to providing all individuals with a safe learning environment that is free from bullying and cyberbullying. This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to promote learning, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that can impede the learning process.
- We understand that members of certain student groups, such as students with disabilities, students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, or homeless

students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying, harassment, or teasing. The Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 Districts will take steps to create a safe environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and provide these students with the skills and knowledge to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

- We will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including any form of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation, in our school buildings, on school grounds, or in school-related activities. We will investigate promptly all reports and complaints of bullying, cyberbullying, and retaliation, and take prompt action to end that behavior and restore the target's sense of safety. We will support this commitment in all aspects of our activities, including curricula, instructional programs, staff development, extracurricular activities, and parent or guardian involvement.

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying and cyberbullying, and creates a foundation for working with students, staff, families, law enforcement agencies, and the community to prevent issues of violence. In consultation with these constituencies, we have established this Plan for preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, and retaliation. The Principal in each building is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Plan.

III. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Annual staff training on the Plan Annual training for all school staff and bus drivers on the Plan will include staff responsibilities under the Plan, an overview of the steps that the Principal or designee will follow upon receipt of a report of bullying or retaliation, and an overview of the types of bullying prevention curricula to be offered at all grades throughout the Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 School Districts. Staff or bus drivers hired after the start of the school year are required to participate in school-based training during the school year in which they are hired, unless they can demonstrate participation in an

acceptable and comparable program within the last two years.

B. Ongoing professional development The goal of professional development is to create a common understanding of tools necessary to create a school climate that promotes safety, civil communication, and respect for differences. Professional development will build the skills of staff members and bus drivers to prevent, identify, and respond to bullying. Professional development will occur at least every two years, or more frequently as determined by the Principal or designee. As required by M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, the content of district-wide professional development will include information on:

- (i) developmentally (or age-) appropriate strategies to prevent bullying;
- (ii) developmentally (or age-) appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying incidents;
- (iii) information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and among an aggressor, target, and witness to the bullying;
- (iv) research findings on bullying, including information about specific categories of students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying in the school environment;
- (v) information on the incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
- (vi) internet safety issues as they relate to cyberbullying.

Professional development will also address ways to prevent and respond to bullying or retaliation for students with disabilities that must be considered when developing students' IEPs. This will include a particular focus on the needs of students with autism or students whose disability affects social skills development.

Additional areas identified by the schools or district for professional development may include:

- using respectful language;
- understanding and respecting diversity and difference;
- building relationships and communicating with families;
- constructively managing classroom behaviors;

- using positive behavioral intervention strategies;
- applying constructive disciplinary practices;
- teaching students skills including positive communication, anger management, and empathy for others;
- engaging students in school or classroom planning and decision-making; and
- creating a safe and caring classroom for all students.

C. Written notice to staff The Tantasqua Regional/Union 61 School Districts will provide all staff and bus drivers with annual written notice of the Plan by publishing information about the Plan, including sections of it related to staff duties, in the school or district employee handbook and the code of conduct.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Aggressor is a student who engages in bullying or retaliation.

Bullying, as defined in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, is the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Cyberbullying, as defined in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications.

Cyberbullying also includes:

- i. the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
- ii. the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions listed in the definition of bullying; and
- iii. the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions listed in the definition of bullying.

Hostile environment, as defined in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student's education.

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

Staff includes, but is not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities, support staff, or paraprofessionals.

Target is a student against whom bullying or retaliation has been perpetrated.

V. ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES

A key component to creating a positive school climate, free of bullying and respectful of all members of the school community is to identify and support the needs of targets, aggressors, and families. The Tantasqua Regional & Union 61 District staff and bus drivers will access all available resources.

A. Some available in District resources include:

- School Counselors
- School Staff and Administrators
- School Nurses
- School Psychologists
- Special Education Team Chair people
- Peer groups
- Mentoring programs
- After school activities

B. Some out of district resources include:

- Clinical health care agencies
- Counseling Agencies
- Local Police Department
- Worcester County District Attorney's Office
- Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- Department of Children Services
- Crisis hotlines
- Medical Facilities

C. Students with disabilities When the IEP Team determines the student has a disability that affects social skills development or the student is vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing because of his/her disability, the Team will consider what should be included in the IEP to develop skills and proficiencies to avoid and respond to bullying,

harassment, or teasing.

VI. ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

A. Specific bullying prevention approaches Bullying prevention curriculum will be based on current research which, among other things, emphasizes the following approaches:

- using scripts and role plays to develop skills;
- empowering students to take action by knowing what to do when they witness other students engaged in acts of bullying or retaliation, including seeking adult assistance (tools for “bystanders”);
- helping students understand the dynamics of bullying, including the underlying power imbalance;
- enhancing students’ skills for engaging in healthy relationships and respectful communications; and
- engaging students in creating a safe, supportive school environment that is respectful of diversity and difference.

Currently the Tantasqua and Union 61 School Districts use a number of pro social and bullying prevention curriculums. Some of these are commercial products and some have been developed by local staff. These commercially produced curriculums include: *Responsive Classroom, Lesson One-The ABC’s of Life, Path’s Curriculum, and Caring School Community*. We are in the process of reviewing our current curricula and will be basing our new initiatives on DESE provided/approved curriculum resources; including the MARC K-5 curriculum. We anticipate this will be done by June 2011.

Initiatives will also teach students about the student-related sections of the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

B. General teaching approaches that support bullying prevention efforts The following approaches are integral to establishing a safe and supportive school environment. These underscore the importance of our bullying intervention and prevention initiatives:

- setting clear expectations of students and established school and classroom routines;
- creating safe school and classroom environments, including for students with disabilities lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, and homeless students;
- using predictable and positive responses and reinforcement, even when students require discipline;
- using positive behavioral supports;
- encouraging adults to nurture positive relationships with students;
- modeling, teaching, and rewarding pro-social, healthy, and respectful behaviors;
- using positive approaches to behavioral health, including collaborative problem solving, resilience, team work, and positive behavioral supports that aid in social and emotional development;
- using the internet safely; and
- supporting students' participation in non-academic and extra-curricular activities, particularly in their areas of strength.

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO BULLYING AND RETALIATION

A. Reporting bullying or retaliation Reports of bullying or retaliation may be made by staff, students, parents or guardians, or others, and may be oral or written. Oral reports made by or to a staff member shall be recorded in writing. Tantasqua Regional & Union 61 staff members are required to report immediately to the Principal or designee any instance of bullying or retaliation the staff member becomes aware of or witnesses. The Tantasqua Regional & Union 61 School Districts will make a variety of reporting resources available to the school community including an online Incident Reporting Form,¹ a school generated form, and the ability to contact the school or Superintendent's office via email or phone. Forms may be hand delivered to a school or central office or may be mailed to the appropriate location. An email concern may also be sent to the School Principal or to the Superintendent's

¹ See Appendix A District Incident Reporting Form.

office. Reporting may also be done personally by phone, during school hours, or by leaving a message on a school or central office voice mailbox. Reports made by students, parents or guardians, or other non-school staff individuals may be made anonymously. Anonymous reports will be looked into by the receiving school, but no discipline action will be taken solely based on an anonymous report. The same reporting procedures (mailing, emailing or calling about an incident) may be used for an anonymous report.

Use of an Incident Reporting Form is not required as a condition of making a report. The school or district will 1) include a copy of the Incident Reporting Form in the beginning of the year packets for students and parents or guardians; 2) make it available in the school's main office, counselors' office, and other locations determined by the Principal or designee; and 3) post it on the website. The Incident Reporting Form will be made available in the most prevalent language(s) of origin of students and parents or guardians.

The school or district will provide the school community, including administrators, staff, bus drivers, students, and parents or guardians, with notice of its policies for reporting acts of bullying and retaliation at the beginning of each school year in writing. A description of reporting procedures and resources, including the name and contact information of the Principal or designee, will be incorporated in student and staff handbooks, on the school or district website, and in information about the Plan that is made available to parents or guardians.

1. Reporting by Staff

A staff member or bus driver will immediately report to the Principal or designee when he/she witnesses or becomes aware of conduct that may be bullying or retaliation. The requirement to report to the Principal or designee does not limit the authority of the staff member to respond to behavioral or disciplinary incidents consistent with the school or district policies and procedures for behavior management and discipline.

2. Reporting by Students, Parents or Guardians, and Others

The school or district expects students, parents or guardians, and others who witness or become aware of an instance of bullying or retaliation involving a student to report it to the Principal or designee. Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Students, parents or guardians, or others may request assistance from a staff member to complete a written report. Students will be provided practical, safe, private and age-appropriate ways to report and discuss an incident of bullying with a staff member, or with the Principal or designee.

B. Responding to a report of bullying or retaliation

1. Safety

Before fully investigating the allegations of bullying or retaliation, the Principal or designee will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. Responses to promote safety may include, but not be limited to, creating a personal safety plan; pre-determining the target's seat in the classroom, at lunch, or on the bus; and identifying a staff member who will act as a "safe person" for the target. The Principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during the course of and after the investigation, as necessary.

The Principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a student who has reported bullying or retaliation, a student who has witnessed bullying or retaliation, a student who provides information during an investigation, or a student who has reliable information about a reported act of bullying or retaliation.

2. *Obligations to Notify Others*

- Notice to parents or guardians Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the Principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the Principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.
- Notice to Another School or District If the reported incident involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private special education day or residential school, or collaborative school, the Principal or designee first informed of the incident will promptly notify by telephone the Principal or designee of the other school(s) of the incident so that each school may take appropriate action. All communications will be in accordance with state and federal privacy laws and regulations, and 603 CMR 49.00.
- Notice to Law Enforcement At any point after receiving of a report of bullying or retaliation, or during or after an investigation, if the Principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that the incident may involve criminal conduct, the Principal will notify the local law enforcement agency. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 49.00 and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency.

If an incident occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in school, the Principal or designee shall contact the local law enforcement agency if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe that the incident may involve criminal conduct.

C. Investigation The Principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the Principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. As part of each interview, the Principal or designee will inform the alleged target and the alleged aggressor of the investigation process that will be followed, and of the possible determinations he/she may make after investigation. The Principal or designee (or whoever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the Principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the Principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the Principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The Principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with school or district policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the Principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation.

- D. Determinations The Principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the Principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The Principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what disciplinary action should be taken against the aggressor.

In making this determination, the Principal or designee will consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior, and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The Principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the Principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken, unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

E. Responses to Bullying

1. Teaching appropriate behavior through skills-building

Upon the Principal or designee determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the law requires that school use a range of responses that balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O(d)(v). Skill-building approaches that the Principal or designee may consider include:

- offering individualized skill-building sessions based on the school's/district's anti-bullying curriculum;
- providing relevant educational activities for individual students or groups of students, in consultation with guidance counselors and other appropriate school personnel;
- implementing a range of academic and nonacademic positive behavioral supports to help students understand pro-social ways to achieve their goals;
- holding conferences with parents and guardians to engage parental support and to reinforce the anti-bullying curriculum and social skills building activities at home;
- adopting behavioral plans to include a focus on developing specific social skills; and
- making a referral for evaluation

2. Taking disciplinary action

If the Principal or designee decides that disciplinary action is appropriate, the disciplinary action will be determined on the basis of facts found by the Principal or designee, including the nature of the conduct, the age of the student(s) involved, and the need to balance accountability with the teaching of appropriate behavior.

Discipline will be consistent with the school's code of conduct. (Appendix B)

Discipline procedures for students with disabilities are governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), which should be read in cooperation with state laws regarding student discipline.

If the Principal or designee determines that a student knowingly made a false allegation of bullying or retaliation, that student may be subject to disciplinary action.

3. Promoting safety for the target and others

The Principal or designee will consider what adjustments, if any, are needed in the school environment to enhance students' sense of safety. One strategy that the Principal or designee may use is to increase adult supervision at transition times, and in locations where bullying is known to have occurred or is likely to occur.

Within a reasonable period of time following the determination and the ordering of remedial and/or disciplinary action, the Principal or designee will contact the target to determine whether there has been a recurrence of the prohibited conduct and whether additional supportive measures are needed. If so, the Principal or designee will work with appropriate school staff to implement them immediately.

VIII. COLLABORATION WITH FAMILIES

- A. Parent education and resources The school or district will offer education programs for parents and guardians that are focused on the parental components of the anti-bullying curricula and any social competency curricula used by the district or school. The programs will be offered in collaboration with the PTO, PTF, School Councils, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, or similar organizations.

B. Notification requirements Each year the district or school will inform parents or guardians of enrolled students about the anti-bullying curriculum that is being used by the district or school. This notice will include information about the dynamics of bullying, including cyberbullying and online safety. The school or district will send parents written notice each year about the student-related sections of the Plan and the school or district internet safety policy. All notices and information made available to parents or guardians will be in written and electronic form, and will be available in the language(s) most prevalent among parents or guardians. The school or district will post the Plan and related information on its website.

IX. PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING AND RETALIATION

Acts of bullying, which include cyberbullying, are prohibited:

- (i) on school grounds and property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school sponsored or school related activity, function, or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or used by a school District or school; or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased, or used by a school district or school, and
- (ii) at a location, activity, function, or program that is not school related through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school District or school, if the acts create a hostile environment at school for the target or witnesses, infringe on their rights at school, or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying is also prohibited.

As stated in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, nothing in this Plan requires the district or school to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.

Appendix A

TRSD/UNION 61 BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

1. Name of Reporter/Person Filing the Report:

(Note: Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report.)

2. Check whether you are the: **Target of the behavior** **Reporter (not the target)**

3. Check whether you are a: **Student** **Staff member (specify role)**

 Parent **Administrator** **Other (specify)**

Your contact information/telephone number: _____

4. If student, state your School: _____
Grade: _____

5. If staff member, state your School or Work site:

6. Information about the Incident:

Name of Target (of behavior):

Name of Aggressor (Person who engaged in the behavior):

Date(s) of Incident(s):

Time When Incident(s) Occurred:

Location of Incident(s) (be as specific as possible):

7. Witnesses (List people who saw the incident or have information about it):

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

8. Describe the details of the incident (including names of people involved, what occurred, and what each person did and said, including specific words used). Please use additional space on back if necessary.

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

9. Signature of Person Filing this Report:

_____ Date: _____
(Note: Reports may be filed anonymously.)

10: Form Given to: _____ Position: _____
_____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date
Received: _____

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FORM: Page 2

II. INVESTIGATION

1. Investigator: _____
Position: _____

2. Interviews:

Interviewed aggressor Name: _____ Date: _____

Interviewed target Name: _____ Date: _____

Interviewed witnesses Name: _____ Date: _____

_____ Name: _____ Date: _____

3. Any prior documented incidents by the aggressor? Yes No

If yes, have incidents involved target or target group previously? Yes No

Any previous incidents with findings of BULLYING, RETALIATION Yes No

Summary of Investigation:

(Please use additional paper and attach to this document as needed)

III. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INVESTIGATION

1. Finding of bullying or retaliation:

YES

NO

Bullying

Incident documented as

Retaliation

Discipline referral

only _____

2. Contacts:

Target's parent/guardian Date: _____ Aggressor's parent/guardian Date: _____

District Equity Coordinator (DEC) Date: _____ Law Enforcement Date: _____

3. Action Taken:

Loss of Privileges Detention STEP referral Suspension

Community Service Education Other _____

4. Describe Safety Planning:

Follow up with Target: scheduled for _____ Initial and date when completed: _____

Follow up with Aggressor: scheduled for _____ Initial and date when completed: _____

Report forwarded to Principal: Date _____ Report forwarded to Superintendent: Date _____

(If Principal was not the investigator)

Signature and Title: _____ Date: _____

Appendix B-Student Code of Conduct
Burgess Elementary School-Sturbridge

STUDENT CONDUCT: BECOMING YOUR “BEST SELF”

The purpose of schooling is primarily the learning of academic subjects. Any behavior that inhibits the teaching/learning process is considered inappropriate. As a member of the Burgess School community, each student is encouraged to view other children and adults in a way that promotes mutual respect and cooperation. In order that we may all move forward together in our continuing effort to provide the best possible education for our children, parents are asked to support this philosophy.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior will be governed by the provisions outlined in Massachusetts General Law, c.269, Sections 17-19.

LESSON ONE: THE ABC’S OF LIFE

Burgess Elementary School is actively participating in the ABC’s of Life Program which instructs students using “The Pledge for Success.” Students are urged to use self-control, develop self-confidence and to take responsibility for their actions. Students and staff members will receive additional training during the school year from Lesson One personnel.

CONSEQUENCES FOR MISCONDUCT

In spite of a positive approach, we realize that at times consequences for inappropriate behavior will be necessary. Each infraction, however, will be judged individually. In every instance, students will be heard. Parents will be notified when inappropriate behavior is serious or continual. Inappropriate behavior will be defined as follows:

1. Minor

Misbehaviors such as gum chewing, talking out in class, etc., will be discussed between the teacher and student. Every effort will be made to help children acquire self-discipline by encouraging them to suggest their own solutions to problems.

2. Serious

- a. Disrespect to any staff member.
- b. Use of profanity.
- c. Cheating (with documentation).
- d. Forgery of parental signature/altering grades.
- e. Bullying and/or harassing fellow students.

Teachers will make every effort to resolve problems before involving the administration; however, administrative guidance is always advisable. Teachers will establish appropriate consequences for these misbehaviors they may include loss of recess or an after-school detention. Teachers should make students aware of consequences beforehand. Habitual offenders should be referred to the office.

3. Major

- a. Leaving school grounds without authorization.
- b. Vandalism.
- c. Use of force, fighting or intentionally causing injury to another person, including biting.
- d. Stealing.
- e. Smoking.
- f. Violation of another person's civil rights.
- g. Possession of any controlled substance.
- h. Possession of any weapon/firearm.

Any of these infractions will result in the student being brought to the office immediately. Parents will be contacted and the student and his/her parents will be heard. Depending on the severity of the behavior, consequences may include out-of school suspension. Biting will result in a suspension. In cases of out-of-school suspension, it will be the students' responsibility to make up any work missed within one week's time. The office will keep a record of major misbehavior. No students will be suspended from school without due process.