

# VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**BOARD POLICY NO. 5131.2**

**ADOPTED: 08/28/23**

**CLASSIFICATION: Students**

**SUBJECT: Bullying**

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The County Superintendent and the County Board recognize the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning, and school attendance and desire to provide a safe school environment that protects students from physical and emotional harm. No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, visual, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel, or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for addressing bullying in schools and programs of the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) with the involvement of students, parents/guardians, and staff. As appropriate, the County Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with social services, mental health services, law enforcement, courts, and other agencies and community organizations in the development and implementation of effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community.

Such strategies shall be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan and, to the extent possible, into the local control and accountability plan and other applicable VCOE and school plans.

Any complaint of bullying shall be investigated and, if determined to be discriminatory, resolved in accordance with law and the VCOE's uniform complaint procedures specified in AR 1312.3. If, during the investigation, it is determined that a complaint is about nondiscriminatory bullying, the principal or designee shall inform the complainant and shall take all necessary actions to resolve the complaint.

Any employee who permits or engages in bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

## Legal Reference:

### EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
32280-32289.5	School safety plans
32283.5	Bullying; online training
35181	Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5	Rules
46600	Student transfers
48900-48925	Suspension and expulsion
48985	Notices to parents in language other than English
52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan

PENAL CODE

422.55	Definition of hate crime
647	Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor
647.7	Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment
653.2	Electronic communication devices; threats to safety

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 18

35.107	Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints
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CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.7	Section 504; Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievances procedures
106.8	Designation of coordinator; dissemination of policy, and adoption of grievance procedures
110.25	Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254	Universal service discounts (E-rate)
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COURT DECISION

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094  
 Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719  
 Wynar v. Douglas County School District, (2013) 728 F.3d 1062