



Summary of Legal and Contractual Expectations on Addressing Bullying

This informational overview is a general reference guide intended only to clarify for schools relevant legal and contractual obligations, including OPSB Policy. It is NOT a substitute for understanding federal and state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies nor is it a comprehensive description of all applicable legal and contractual obligations. Additionally, it is not meant to explain or delineate OPSB strategic priorities.

OPSB expects all charter schools to comply with La. R.S. 17:416.13 regarding the implementation of policies to prevent, report and investigate incidents of bullying.

Summary Overview of Expectations on Addressing Bullying*	
Required Policy	<p>Each School is required to enact a bullying policy that addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of bullying as outlined in state law and behaviors that constitute bullying. • The effect the behavior has on others including bystanders. • The disciplinary and criminal consequences of bullying. • Procedures to inform students of the bullying policy both orally and in writing. • Procedures to provide written notice to parents/legal guardians about the bullying policy and the consequences.
Required Staff Trainings	<p>Each school is required to provide professional development for all staff on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to recognize behaviors defined as bullying. • How to identify students at each grade level who are most likely to become victims of bullying, while not excluding any student from protection from bullying. • How to use appropriate intervention and remediation techniques and procedures. • Procedure by which incidents of bullying are to be reported to school officials. • Information on suicide prevention, including the relationship between suicide risk factors and bullying.
Required actions upon receipt of a bullying complaint	<p>Each school is required to enact the following procedures after receiving a bullying complaint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of bullying must always be kept confidential. • A verbal report must be submitted to school leadership the same day the bullying incident was witnessed or reported. A written report must also be filed no later than two days after the incident. • Retaliation against any person who reports bullying in good faith is strictly prohibited. School resources must not be used to prohibit or dissuade any person from reporting a bullying incident. • An investigation of bullying must begin the next business day during which school is in session and include an interview with the reporter, the victim, the alleged bully, and witnesses, if applicable. Copies or photographs of any physical evidence should be reviewed as part of the investigation. • Parents of all parties must be notified of any bullying incident. • Parents must be notified and given an opportunity to attend prior to any interviews of students under the age of 18.

Additional Information

For additional guidance, see the [LDOE Sample Bullying Prevention Policy](#), [LDOE Act 861 Implementation Checklist](#), [Reporting and Investigating Incidences of Bullying](#)

Reference(s): LA. Act 861, R.S. 17:416.13

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