

Cyberbullying

The ESD is committed to providing a positive and productive learning and working environment. Any form of harassment using electronic devices, commonly known as “cyberbullying,” by staff, students or third parties is prohibited and will not be tolerated in the ESD. “Cyberbullying” is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio or video) that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner under a person’s true or false identity. In addition, any communication of this form which disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational or working environment may also be considered cyberbullying. Staff and students will refrain from using personal communication devices or ESD property to harass or stalk another.

The ESD will take any report of cyberbullying seriously and will investigate credible reports promptly. Students or volunteers are encouraged to report an incident immediately to a teacher or supervisor, who will take appropriate action. Students or volunteers who make a report are expected, but not required, to preserve evidence of cyberbullying. For example, a student may save or bring a copy of an email, text message, picture or other electronic transmission that the student believes was intended to harm, insult or humiliate. Students or volunteers may report cyberbullying anonymously. Remedial action shall not be based solely on an anonymous report.

Failure of an employee to report an act of cyberbullying to a program administrator or superintendent may be subject to remedial action, up to and including dismissal.

Staff will take appropriate action and will bring it to the attention of the program administrator when students report an incident of cyberbullying. Staff will attempt to preserve evidence of the cyberbullying and will submit any evidence to the program administrator.

Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to loss of privileges, discipline, up to and including expulsion. Third parties whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or Board. The ESD may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

“Third parties” include, but are not limited to school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or other engaged in district business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the district and others not directly subject to district control.

The ESD shall incorporate into existing programs for students and staff information related to cyberbullying and the prevention of and the appropriate response to acts of cyberbullying.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 163.190](#)

[ORS 166.065](#)

[ORS 166.155 - 166.165](#)

[ORS 174.100\(6\)](#)

[ORS 334.125](#)

SB 1555 (2012)