

USD 110 THUNDER RIDGE SCHOOLS BULLYING POLICY

The Thunder Ridge School District has developed a plan to prevent bullying. Bullying is dangerous and disrespectful behavior that will not be permitted or tolerated.

The USD 110 Board of Education prohibits bullying in any form either by any student, staff member, or parent towards a student or by a student, staff member, or parent towards a staff member on or while using school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event. For the purposes of this policy, the term “bullying” shall have the meaning ascribed in Kansas law.

Staff members who bully others in violation of this policy maybe be subject of disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or termination. If appropriate, staff members who violate the bullying prohibition shall be reported to local law enforcement.

Parents participating in prohibited bullying conduct aimed at district students and/or staff members may jeopardize their access to district facilities; district property; school sponsored activities, programs and events; and/or districts students and/or staff members through the district’ communication systems. As appropriate, reports to local law enforcement will be filed to report criminal bullying behaviors.

This policy and the district bullying may be posted on the district’s website and copies of such documents shall be made available to parents of current students upon request.

Bullying may involve a range of misconduct that, based on the severity, will warrant a measured response of corrective action and/or discipline. Behaviors that do not rise to the level of bullying, as defined below, still may be subject to intervention and/or discipline under another section of the discipline plan or a discipline policy. Some bullying behaviors may require a report to local law enforcement.

B. Bullying means any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows of or should know will have the effect of:

1. Harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally;
2. Damaging a student’s or staff member’s property;
3. Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student or staff member; or
4. Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student’s or staff member’s property; or

Any form of intimidation or harassment prohibited by the board of education of the school district in policies concerning bullying adopted pursuant to this section or subsection of K.S.A. 72-8205, and amendments thereto.

“School vehicle” means any school bus, school van, other school vehicle and private vehicle used to transport students or staff members to and from school or any school-sponsored activity or event.

C. The following bullying policy was adopted by the USD 110 Board of Education at the regular meeting held on July 14, 2008.

The board of education prohibits bullying in any form on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event. The administration shall propose, and the board shall review and approve a plan to address bullying on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event.

The plan shall include provisions for the training and education of staff members and students shall include appropriate community involvement as approved by the board. Students who have bullied others in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion. If appropriate, students who violate the bullying prohibition shall be reported to local law enforcement.

D. Each building in the Thunder Ridge School District will develop a character development program, as a way to encourage anti-bullying behavior that meets the following requirements:

1. A “Character development program” means a program which is secular in nature and which stresses positive character qualities.
2. “Character qualities” means positive character qualities which include, but is not limited to, honesty, responsibility, attentiveness, patience, kindness, respect, self-control, tolerance, cooperation, initiative, patriotism and citizenship.

E. The district will provide bullying training for all staff members each year.

F. Each building will gather bullying data and report the results to the Board of Education at the end of each school year. The data may be gathered from the following sources:

1. Bullying Discipline Referrals
2. School Climate Surveys

G. Students may report any bullying incident to any adult employee of the Thunder Ridge School District. Once they have received a report from a student, it is the responsibility of the employee to promptly contact the principal of the building and inform him/her of the complaint. Once a report has been made, it is the responsibility of the building principal or his/her designee to investigate the incident, and act according to the policies or the Thunder Ridge School District.

H. Each building shall establish a bullying committee that is responsible for coordinating the school’s bullying prevention program. The committee shall include the building principal, one counselor, at least one teacher, a parent, and at least one student.

FOR CONSEQUENCES INVOLVING BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING, REFER TO THE BULLYING RUBRIC INCLUDED WITH THE DISCIPLINE POLICY ON PAGE 23 A.

- **CYBERBULLYING**

Cyberbullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technology or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. Once adults become involved, it is plain and simple cyberharassment or cyberstalking. Adult cyberharassment or cyberstalking is NEVER called cyberbullying.

The methods used are limited only by the child's imagination and access to technology. And the cyberbully one moment may become the victim the next. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again.

Cyberbullying is usually not a one time communication, unless it involves a death threat or credible threat of serious bodily harm. Kids usually know it when they see it, while parents may be more worried about the lewd language used by the kids than the hurtful effect of rude and embarrassing posts.

Cyberbullying may arise to the level of a misdemeanor cyberharassment charge, or if the child is young enough may result in the charge of juvenile delinquency. Most of the time the cyberbullying does not go that far, although parents often try and pursue criminal charges. It typically can result in a child losing their ISP or IM accounts as a terms of service violation. And in some cases, if hacking or password and identity theft is involved, can be a serious criminal matter under state and federal law.