

Nebraska State Board of Education Policy: Anti-Bullying

The State Board of Education believes that Nebraska schools should provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff sustained through relationship building among staff, students, and community. It is the goal of the State Board of Education, through this policy, to support behavior leading to positive learning and teaching environments.

The State Board defines positive behaviors as those which promote respect, cooperation, empathy, tolerance, courtesy, self-regulation, non-violence, and relationship building, toward all students and staff in the learning and teaching environment.

Bullying, as per Nebraska Statute §79-2,137(2) means “. . . any on-going pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.” The Board further emphasizes bullying as any written, verbal, physical, and/or electronic action that is repetitive, involves an imbalance of power, and has intent to harm physically or emotionally.

The State Board of Education supports annual reviews of established local prevention policies including strategies to emphasize respect, responsibility, relationships, empathy, and boundaries as positive behaviors that promote a safe and secure learning environments. Local school policies for the prevention of bullying/cyberbullying, intimidation, or harassment should include the following information for students and staff.

- signs and symptoms exhibited by recipients;
- awareness of the positive or negative influence of bystanders;
- strategies to support recipients;
- methods of responding to recipients and instigators;
- tactics to de-escalate incidents; and,
- application of positive behavior to influence incidents.

The Department of Education will continue to make information available in regard to evidence-based strategies and practices for the advancement and implementation from model policies to local policies. The Department will also disseminate information that promotes state level efforts to assist schools in achieving positive environments.

Board Action History

- Policy statement adopted 2/7/2003 and reaffirmed 12/9/05
- Board reaffirmed policy 9/8/2011
- Board reaffirmed policy 9/4/2015
- Board revised and adopted 12/4/2015

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2,137
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-267(8)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2,144(10)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-725
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-726
- AQuESST Tenets: Positive Partnerships, Relationships & Student Success  
Educator Effectiveness