

Students

HATE-MOTIVATED BEHAVIOR

Schools have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, as well as a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity.

The California Department of Education defines hate-motivated behavior as an act, or attempted act, motivated by hostility towards a victim's real or perceived ethnicity, national origin, immigrant status, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, or any other physical or cultural characteristic. Some hate-motivated behavior may also be a crime as defined in state or federal law. These crimes include, but are not limited to: bomb threats, cross burnings, destruction or defacement of property, and certain types of vandalism and assaults.

The Governing Board affirms the right of every student to be protected from hate-motivated behavior. It is the intent of the Board to promote harmonious relationships that enable students to gain a true understanding of the civil rights and social responsibilities of people in our society. Behavior or statements that degrade an individual on the basis of his/her race, ethnicity, culture, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental attributes, religious beliefs or practices shall not be tolerated.

Any student or parent who feels that he/she or their child is a victim of hate-motivated behavior shall immediately contact the principal or designee or other staff member. If the student or parent believes that the situation has not been remedied by the principal or designee, the student's parent(s) may file a complaint in accordance with District complaint procedures. School staff shall take immediate steps to address and resolve any complaint made known to them.

Staff who receive notice of hate-motivated behavior or personally observe such behavior shall immediately notify the principal, Superintendent or designee, and, if appropriate, inform law enforcement. Students demonstrating hate-motivated behavior shall be subject to discipline and appropriate interventions in accordance with Board policy and Administrative regulation.

The District shall provide counseling, guidance and support, as necessary, to those students who are the victims of hate-motivated behavior.

At the beginning of each school year, students and staff shall receive a copy of the District's policy on hate-motivated behavior and receive instruction on what constitutes such behavior and the consequence of exhibiting such behavior.

Legal Reference: (See next page)

HATE-MOTIVATED BEHAVIOR (continued)

Legal References:

Education Code

200-262 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

33025 Hate violence defined

48900.3 Suspension for hate violence

Penal Code

186.21 Street terrorism; Legislative findings and declarations

422.6-422.95 Civil Rights

628-628.1 School crime reports

11410-11414 Terrorism

13023 Reports by law enforcement of crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability

13519.6 Hate crimes, training courses and guidelines