



## **Bullying Prevention and Education**

The CEC Governing Board (the Board) supports a secure school climate which is conducive to teaching and learning and is free from threat, harassment, or any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency and help create a school in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is the use of coercion to obtain control over or to be habitually cruel to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expressions or by means of physical acts or gestures. Bullying is prohibited on school property, at school-sanctioned activities and events off school property, or when such conduct has a nexus to a school activity, and while students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the school.

A student who engages in any act of bullying, or who takes any retaliatory action against a student who reports an incident of bullying in good faith, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

The Board directs CEC's Chief Executive Administrator (CEA) to oversee a program to address bullying at all school levels. The program shall be aimed at accomplishing the following goals:

1. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents, and community members that bullying will not be tolerated.
2. To train staff and students in taking proactive steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
3. To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confirmation of staff and/or students engaged in bullying behavior.
4. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of staff and/or students engaged in bullying behaviors through reeducation on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.
5. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members to help maintain a bully-free environment.

6. To support victims of bullying by means of individual and peer counseling.
7. To help develop peer-support networks, social skills, and confidence for all students.
8. To recognize and praise positive, supportive behaviors of staff and students toward one another on a regular basis.

The Board directs the CEA, or their designee, to administer a biennial survey of CEC students, that meets or exceeds the minimum standards established in statute, to obtain students' impressions of the severity of bullying in their school.

**Legal References:**

*C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(I)(K) (policy required as part of safe schools plan)*

*C.R.S. 22-93-104*

**Policy References:**

*Student Handbook*