

Welfare**DISTRICT POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

Miami Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. To this end, M-DCPS is dedicated to eradicating bullying and harassment in its schools by providing awareness, prevention, and education in promoting a school atmosphere in which bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated by students, school board employees, visitors, or volunteers.

In April 2008, the Florida Legislature passed the “Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act” (House Bill 669). This Act created the Florida Statute (1006.147) that requires all school districts to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of students and staff on school grounds or school transportation, at school-sponsored events, and through the use of data or computer software accessed through school computer systems or networks by December 1, 2008.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has affirmed its support for this Act and the protection of all students and staff by establishing a District Policy Against Bullying and Harassment.

Compliance with the requirements of Section 1006.147, Florida Statute, will be accomplished as follows:

- Inclusion and involvement of students, parents, teachers, administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement agencies in the process of adopting the policy.
- Provision of a plan for the school district to implement the policy in a consistent and on-going manner. Integration of the policy with curriculum, discipline policies, and violence prevention efforts.
- Development of a District-wide policy prohibiting bullying and harassment that is in substantial conformity with the FLDOE model policy.
- Submission of a district policy prohibiting bullying and harassment to the Office of Safe Schools.
- Receipt of approval and certification of the District’s policy from the Office of Safe Schools.
- Implementation and monitoring of the District’s required policy.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, through the Division of Student Services’ Safe Schools Programs, has developed the Policy Against Bullying and Harassment for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, attached hereto and incorporated herein by

reference. Included in this state mandated policy is a comprehensive Bullying Prevention curriculum for all students in grades Pre-K through 12.

This policy shall also be incorporated by reference into the *Code of Student Conduct* and the *Procedures for Promoting and Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment*. This Policy will supersede any existing policy, guideline, or Board Rule regarding bullying and harassment that may be determined to be inconsistent with this policy.

School Board rules are applicable to all students under the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Copies of this document are on file in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center and will be available in each school and Regional Center.

This policy does not replace the District's current policy prohibiting harassment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, and disability. Specific federal policy guidelines on harassment have been established by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) for Title IX, Florida Equity Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Age Discrimination Act. The Florida Department of Education's Office of Equity and Access (OEA) reviews and monitors the implementation of such harassment policies.

Specific Authority: 1001.41 (1), (2); 1001.42 (25); 1001.43 (10), F.S.
Law Implemented, Interpreted, or made specific: 1006.147, F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
New: 6-17-09