

Board of Education Rule Defining Bullying

R277-613-1. Authority and Purpose.

(1) This rule is authorized by:

(a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board; and

(b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4)(a), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law

(2) The purpose of the rule is to:

(a) require LEAs to develop, update, and implement bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct policies at the school district and school level;

(b) provide for regular and meaningful training of school employees and students;

(c) provide for enforcement of the policies in schools, at the state level and in public school athletic programs; and

(d) require an LEA to review allegations of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct.

R277-613-2. Definitions.

(1) "Abusive conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(1).

(2)(a) "Bullying" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(2).

(b) "Bullying" includes relational aggression or indirect, covert, or social aggression, including rumor spreading, intimidation, enlisting a friend to assault a child, and social isolation.

(c) The conduct described in Subsection 53G-9-601(2) constitutes bullying, regardless of whether the person against whom the conduct is committed directed, consented to, or acquiesced in, the conduct.

(3) "Civil rights violation" means bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, or hazing that is targeted at a student based upon the students' or employees' identification as part of any group protected from discrimination under the following federal laws:

(a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

(b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; or

(c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

(4) "Cyber-bullying" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(4).

(5) "Disruptive student behavior" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-8-210(1)(a).

(6) "Hazing" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(5).

(7) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

(8) "Participant" means any student, employee or volunteer coach participating in a public school sponsored athletic program or activity, including a curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular club or activity.

(9) "Policy" means standards and procedures that:

(a) are required in Section 53G-9-605;

(b) include the provisions of Section 53G-8-202; and

(c) provide additional standards, procedures, and training adopted in an open meeting by an LEA board that:

(i) define bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct;

(ii) prohibit bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct;

(iii) require regular annual discussion and training designed to prevent bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, and retaliation among school employees and students; and

(iv) provide for enforcement through employment action or student discipline.

(10) "Restorative justice practice" means a discipline practice that brings together students, school personnel, families, and community members to resolve conflicts, address disruptive behaviors, promote positive relationships, and healing.

(11) "Retaliate" or "retaliation" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(7).

(12) "School employee" means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 53G-9-601(10).

(13) "Trauma-Informed Care" means a strengths-based service delivery approach that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both the alleged victim and the individual who is alleged to have engaged in prohibited conduct, and that creates opportunities for targets to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

(From the Office of Administrative Rules' website)