

BULLYING

(a) Bullying is prohibited by Carmel Clay Schools. Students who commit any acts of bullying are subject to discipline including but not limited to suspension, expulsion, arrest, and/or prosecution.

(b) Definition: Bullying is defined as overt, repeated acts or gestures, including: verbal or written communication transmitted; physical acts committed; or any other behaviors committed; by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, or harm the other student.

(c) Applicability: This rule applies when the bullying student is: on school grounds immediately before or during schools hours, immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or using property or equipment provided by the school.

(d) Education: All students may be required to attend informational sessions on the meaning of bullying and the possible repercussions of partaking in such activity.

(e) Parental Involvement: Parents are encouraged to be involved in the process of minimizing bullying as it is defined in this section. Parents should feel free to report suspected acts of bullying to an appropriate school official. In addition, parents of students suspected of bullying will be notified with a phone call or through other appropriate means of correspondence. Conversely, parents of students suspected of being the victim of acts of bullying will also be notified with a phone call or through other means of appropriate correspondence. Parents of students who are disciplined for acts of bullying will be involved in the process as consistent with school policy on discipline procedure.

(f) Reporting: All parents and students should report suspected acts of bullying to an appropriate school official. In turn, all faculty and school personnel shall report or refer all suspected acts of bullying to a designated school administrator in charge of receiving reports of suspected bullying.

(g) Investigation: Once a report of suspected bullying is received by the designated school administrator, an investigation shall follow. The investigation should be facilitated by the designated school administrator or other appropriate school staff. Information relating to the investigation will be gathered using means including but not limited to interviews and accumulation of suspected bullying correspondence.

(h) Intervention: If a report of suspected bullying is substantiated through an investigation then the school shall take appropriate disciplinary action as consistent with the school's policy and procedure for discipline. The chosen discipline for a student found to have violated the rules on bullying is subject to school discipline such as suspension and expulsion. Also, if the acts of

bullying rise to the level of criminal offense violating students will be referred to the proper authorities and risk arrest and/or prosecution.