

**CCCS Anti-bullying Policy**

*California Ed Code Sections 234, 234.1, 234.2, 234.3 and 234.5*

*Assembly Bill 9 “Seth’s Law” requires public schools in California to focus on protecting students who are bullied based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression, as well as race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, disability, and religion.*

Century Community Charter School (CCCS) recognizes that a school that is physically and emotionally safe and secure for all students promotes good citizenship, increases student attendance and engagement, and supports academic achievement. To protect the rights of all students and groups, and thereby ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the board of education prohibits acts of bullying, harassment, and other forms of aggression and violence. Bullying or harassment, like other forms of aggressive and violent behaviors, interferes with both a school’s ability to educate its students and a student’s ability to learn. All administrators, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and students are expected to refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment, and to demonstrate behavior that is respectful and civil.

“Bullying” or “harassment” is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act—*including electronically transmitted acts (e.i., cyber bullying) through the use of internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (pda), computer, or wireless handheld device, currently in use or later developed and used by students*—that is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress, and may be motivated either by bias or prejudice based upon any actual or perceived characteristic, such as (1) race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; or (2) a mental, physical, or sensory disability or impairment; or (3) by any other distinguishing characteristic, or is based upon association with another person who has or is perceived to have any distinguishing characteristic.

Bullying and harassment also include forms of retaliation against individuals who report or cooperate in an investigation under this policy. Such behaviors are considered to be bullying or harassment whether they take place a) on or off school property, b) at any school-sponsored function, c) in a school vehicle, or d) at any time or place where a student’s imminent safety or over-all well-being may be at issue.

“Bullying” is conduct that meets all of the following criteria:

1. is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress;
2. is directed at one or more pupils;
3. is conveyed through physical, verbal, technological or emotional means;
4. substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more pupils;
5. adversely affects the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the educational programs or activities of the school district or public school *by placing the pupil in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress*; and
6. is based on a pupil’s actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic (see above), or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any of these characteristics.

“Harassment” is conduct that meets all of the following criteria:

1. is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress;
2. is directed at one or more pupils;
3. is conveyed through physical, verbal, technological or emotional means;
4. substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more pupils;
5. adversely affects the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the educational programs or activities of the school district or public school because the conduct, as reasonably perceived by the pupil, is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive as to have this effect; and
6. is based on a pupil’s actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic (see above), or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any of these characteristics.

The scope of this policy includes the prohibition of every form of bullying, harassment, and cyber-bullying and -harassment, whether a) in the classroom, b) on school premises, c) immediately adjacent to school premises, d) when a student is traveling to or from school (portal to portal), or at a school-sponsored event, whether or not held on school premises. Bullying or harassment, including cyber bullying and -harassment, that is not initiated at a location defined above is covered by this policy if the incident results in a potentially material or substantial disruption of the school learning environment for one or more students and/or the orderly day-to-day operations of any school or school program.

Century Community Charter School expects students to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities, and with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school staff, volunteers, and contractors.

Century Community Charter School recognizes that in order to have the maximum impact, it is critical to provide a minimum of annual training, on school policies and procedures regarding bullying and harassment, for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with pupils. Training will provide school employees with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and the necessary skills to fulfill them.

Century Community Charter School believes that standards for student behavior must be set through interaction among the students, parents and guardians, staff, and community members of the school district, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline and their ability to respect the rights of others. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property, on the part of students, staff, parents, and community members.

Century Community Charter School believes that the best discipline, for aggressive behavior, is designed to (1) support students in taking responsibility for their actions, (2) develop empathy, and (3) teach alternative ways to achieve the goals and solve the problems that motivated the aggressive behavior. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent discipline problems and encourage students’ abilities to develop self-discipline and make better choices in the future.

Century Community Charter School requires that its school administrators develop and implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses to a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of bullying and harassment. The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given full consideration by school administrators in the development of the procedures for determining appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of harassment or bullying.

*Factors for Determining Consequences*

* Degree of harm (physical and/or emotional distress)
* Surrounding circumstances
* Nature and severity of the behavior(s)
* Incidences of past or continuing pattern(s) of behavior
* Relationship between the parties involved
* Context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred

*Note:* In order to ensure students’ perception of fair and impartial treatment, a student’s academic or athletic status is *not* a legitimate factor for determining consequences. Consequences must be perceived as fair and impartial.

***Factors for* *Determining Remedial Measures***

*Personal*

* Life skill competencies
* Experiential deficiencies
* Social relationships
* Strengths
* Talents
* Traits
* Interests / Hobbies
* Extra-curricular activities
* Classroom participation
* Academic performance

*Environmental*

* School culture
* School climate and lack of connectedness
* Student-staff relationships and staff behavior toward the student
* Level of consistency in staff responses to bullying or harassing behaviors
* Level of consistency in application or severity of consequences given to students
* Staff-staff relationships witnessed by students
* General staff management of classrooms and other educational environments
* Staff ability to prevent and de-escalate difficult or inflammatory situations
* Social-emotional and behavioral supports
* Social relationships
* Community activities
* Neighborhood culture
* Family situation
* Range and number of opportunities for student engagement, involvement, and recognition for achievement (beyond academics and athletics)

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student or staff member who engages in one or more acts of bullying or harassment may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, in the case of a student, or suspension or termination in the case of an employee, as set forth in the board of education’s approved code of student conduct or employee handbook. School employees will also be held accountable for bullying or harassing behavior directed toward school employees, volunteers, parents, or students.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of bullying and harassment shall vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student’s history of problem behaviors and performance, and must be consistent with CCCS approved code of student conduct. Remedial measures shall be designed to: 1) *correct the problem behavior; 2) prevent another occurrence* of the behavior; and 3) *protect the victim* of the act. The consequences and remedial measures may include, but are not limited to, the examples listed below:

*Examples of Consequences*

* Admonishment
* Participation in a guided reflection process designed to teach alternative behavior
* Temporary removal from the classroom
* Loss of privileges
* Classroom or administrative detention
* Referral to disciplinarian
* In-school suspension during the school week or the weekend, for students
* Out-of-school suspension
* Legal action
* Expulsion or termination

*Examples of Remedial Measures: Strategies for Individual Behavioral Change*

* Framing the aggressive behavior as a failed attempt to solve a real problem or reach a goal. The adult assists the misbehaving student to find a better  way to solve the problem or meet the goal.
* Restitution and restoration
* Transformative conferencing / restorative justice practices
* Supervised peer support group
* Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience
* Supportive discipline to increase accountability for the bullying offense
* Supportive interventions, including participation of an Intervention and  Referral Services team, peer mediation, etc.
* Behavioral management plan, with benchmarks that are closely monitored
* Involvement of school disciplinarian
* Student counseling
* Parent conferences
* Student treatment
* Activities or strategies designed to help the student who engaged in bullying or harassment reflect on the offending behavior, maintaining an emotionally-neutral and strength-based approach
* School and community surveys or other strategies for determining the conditions contributing to harassment, intimidation, or bullying
* Change process to improve school culture
* School climate improvement/improvement in conditions for learning and  instructional pedagogy (incorporation of brain-compatible strategies)
* Adoption of research-based, systemic bullying prevention programs
* Modifications of schedules
* Adjustments in hallway traffic
* Modifications in student routes or patterns traveling to and from school
* Increased supervision and targeted use of monitors (e.g., hallway, cafeteria, bus, etc.)
* General professional development programs for certificated and non-certificated staff
* Professional development plans for staff in key disciplinary roles
* Disciplinary action for school staff who contributed to the problem
* Parent conferences
* Referral to family counseling
* Increased involvement of parent-teacher organizations
* Increased involvement of community-based organizations
* Increased opportunities for parent input and engagement in school initiatives and activities
* Development of a general bullying/harassment response plan
* Peer support groups
* Increase communication with and involvement of law enforcement (e.g., school resource officer, juvenile officer)

Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action *may not* be based solely on the anonymous report.

Century Community Charter School requires the principal, or the principal’s designee, to be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the principal or the principal’s designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. The investigation is to be completed within three school days after a report or complaint is made. The parents of the students involved shall receive written notice from the school on the outcome of the investigation (in compliance with current privacy laws and regulations). All reports on instances of bullying and/or harassment must be recorded by the school for annual data review.

Century Community Charter School prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying or harassment, or cooperates in an investigation. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act.

The school district shall incorporate information regarding the policy against harassment or bullying into each school employee training program and handbook.