

413 - HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability (Protected Class).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the education district is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The education district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication basis on a person's Protected Class, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, education district personnel includes governing board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.
- D. The education district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assault" is:
 - 1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
 - 2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
 - 3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

- B. “Harassment” prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual’s or group of individuals’ race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
 2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance; or
 3. otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment or academic opportunities.
- C. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications; Definitions
1. “Disability” means, with respect to an individual who:
 - a. has a physical, sensory, or mental impairment which materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
 - b. has a record of such an impairment; or
 - c. is regarded as having such an impairment.
 2. “Familial status” means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with:
 - a. their parent or parents or the minor’s legal guardian; or
 - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.
 3. “Marital status” means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
 4. “National origin” means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual’s lineal ancestors.
 5. “Sex” includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.

6. “Sexual orientation” means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s biological maleness or femaleness. “Sexual orientation” does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.
 7. “Status with regard to public assistance” means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. “Remedial response” means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.
- F. Sexual Harassment; Definition
1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment, or an education; or
 - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual’s employment or education; or
 - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.
 2. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:
 - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
 - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators or other education district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
 - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual’s employment or educational status;
 - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual’s employment or educational status; or

- f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of gender.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

- 1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof which involves the touching of another's intimate parts, or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
- 2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts;
 - b. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
 - c. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
 - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a pupil student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate education district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct which may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

- D. In Each Education District site: The building principal, the principal's designee, the program coordinator, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult education district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Executive Director or the education district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.
- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. Education district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the education district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein will result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District. The governing board hereby designates Patrick Gordon as the education district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves the human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the chairperson of the education district governing board.
- H. The education district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The education district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the education district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.
- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

V. INVESTIGATION

- A. By authority of the education district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by education district officials or by a third party designated by the education district.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the education district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the education district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators or other education district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.
- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The education district human rights officer shall make a written report upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the executive director, the report may be filed directly with the governing board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. EDUCATION DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the education district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. Education district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and education district policies.
- B. The education district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The education district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other education district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or other state or federal agency, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minn. Statutes Chapter 260E may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the education district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted on the Zumbro Education District website.
- B. This policy shall be reviewed by each education district employee and independent contractor at the time of entering into the person's employment contract.
- C. An abbreviated version of this policy shall appear in the student handbook with reference to the Zumbro Education District website to view the full policy.
- D. The education district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.

- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

Adopted: September 20, 1990

Revised: November 18, 1993

January 22, 2004

February 15, 2018

Reviewed: December 19, 2019

Revised: November 18, 2021

*****ATTENTION*****

**ZUMBRO EDUCATION DISTRICT POLICY AGAINST
HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE**

- I. Everyone at the Zumbro Education District has a right to feel respected and safe. Consequently, we want you to know about our policy to prevent harassment and violence of any kind.
- II. A harasser may be a student or an employee. Harassment may include the following when related to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability:
 - A. name calling, jokes or rumors;
 - B. pulling on clothing;
 - C. graffiti;
 - D. notes or cartoons;
 - E. unwelcome touching of a person or clothing;
 - F. offensive or graphic posters or book covers; or
 - G. any words or actions that make you feel uncomfortable, embarrass you, hurt your feelings or make you feel bad.
- III. If any words or action make you feel uncomfortable or fearful, you need to tell the Human Rights Officer, Patrick Gordon.
- IV. You may also make a written report. It should be given to the Human Rights Officer. Your right to privacy will be respected as much as possible.
- V. We take seriously all reports of harassment or violence and will take all appropriate actions based on your report.
- VI. The Education District will also take action if anyone tries to intimidate you or take action to harm you because you have reported.
- VII. This is a summary of the Education District policy against harassment and violence. Complete policies are available in the Zumbro Education District office upon request.

HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE ARE AGAINST THE LAW

DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

CONTACT: Patrick Gordon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER

Zumbro Education District

801 Frontage Road NW

Byron, MN 55920

Phone: (507) 775-2037

EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 6012-61
HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE REPORT FORM

General Statement of Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Violence

Education District No. 6012-61 maintains a firm policy prohibiting all forms of discrimination. Harassment or violence against students or employees or groups of students or employees on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or disability is strictly prohibited. All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or disability by any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other education district personnel, which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Complainant _____
Home Address _____
Work Address _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s) _____

Basis of Alleged Harassment/Violence – circle as appropriate: race / color / creed / religion / national origin / sex / age / marital status / familial status / status with regard to public assistance / sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression / disability

Name of person you believe harassed or was violent toward you or another person or group.

If the alleged harassment or violence was toward another person, identify that person or group.

Describe the incident(s) as clearly as possible, including such things as: what force, if any, was used; any verbal statements (i.e. threats, requests, demands, etc.); what, if any, physical contact was involved; etc. (Attach additional pages if necessary.) _____

Where and when did the incident(s) occur? _____

List any witnesses that were present _____

This complaint is filed based on my honest belief that _____ has harassed or has been violent to me or to another person. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Complainant Signature)
Received by _____

(Date)

(Date)