

Downey Unified School District

STUDENTS

BULLYING PREVENTION

BP 2416

(Cross Reference: BP 3136.2)

In accordance with the Safe Place to Learn Act, the Downey Unified School District believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The District, schools, and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

The Downey Unified School District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. A student shall not discriminate, intimidate, harass, or bully another student through words or actions based on actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code and Education Code 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to: direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation.

This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

The Downey Unified School District expects that, if school personnel witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, he or she shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. The Downey Unified School District expects employees and/or students to immediately report incidents of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying to a school administrator.

The District has established Uniform Complaint Procedures that shall address each complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Timelines and guidelines regarding the filing of a complaint, the investigation of alleged acts, and process for appealing the District's decision under the Safe Place to Learn Act are included in the Uniform Complaint Procedures.