

## **PROHIBITION OF BULLYING**

Washington School for the Deaf is committed to a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning environment. Bullying, which is a form of harassment, is a major distraction from learning and has no place in the school and/or residential setting.

Washington School for the Deaf prohibits bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, marital status, socio-economic status, physical appearance, or other distinguishing characteristic.

For purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as any intentional threat of or act of physical, verbal (which includes oral, written and electronically transmitted), or emotional abuse, or attacks on the property of another, which:

1. has the effect of materially interfering with a student's education,
2. is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational and/or residential environment, or
3. has the effect of materially disrupting the orderly operation of the school and/or residential program.

Bullying may include, but is not limited to, taunts, slurs, name-calling, rumors, drawings, cartoons, ostracism, extortion of money, or damage or destruction of another's possessions, demeaning comments, innuendos, physical attacks, threats, pranks or jokes.

Bullying is often carried out through harassment or intimidation, which are addressed and prohibited under the Student Conduct Code. Behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment or bullying are still prohibited by other rules.

Administrators shall notify staff, students, volunteers and parents that bullying in school, on school grounds, on the school bus, or at school-sponsored activities

will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion. Law enforcement may be notified depending on the nature and severity of the conduct.

False reports of bullying also constitute violations of this policy.

This policy does not prohibit the civil, respectful expression of religious or political views, provided that the expression does not materially disrupt the education environment.

Legal References: RCW 28A.300.285, RCW 9A.36.080(3)  
Title VII, §703, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended  
Federal Regulation 74676 issued by the EEO Commission  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

**Adoption Date: 11/13/03**