

Sutter Middle School

Anti-Bullying Policy

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Sutter Middle School is committed to each student's success in learning within a caring, responsive, and safe environment that is free of discrimination, violence, and bullying. Our school works to ensure that all students have the opportunity and support to develop to their fullest potential and share a personal and meaningful bond with people in the school community. Acts of bullying of students at Sutter Middle School is strictly prohibited. The school administration will promptly and fully investigate all acts of bullying. Students have the right to attend a bully-free school, and Sutter Middle School will work diligently and collaboratively with all stakeholders in the community to prevent all types of bullying of Sutter Middle School students.

Sutter Middle School Student Bill of Rights:

Each student at Sutter Middle School has a right to:

- Learn in a safe and friendly place
- Be treated with respect
- Receive the help and support of caring adults

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is a pattern of aggressive, intentional or deliberately hostile behavior that occurs repeatedly and has an imbalance of power. Bullying behaviors normally fall into three categories, physical, emotional, and verbal; and may include, but are not limited to, intimidation, assault; extortion; oral or written threats; teasing; exclusion; putdowns; name-calling; threatening looks; gestures, or actions; rumors; false accusations; hazing, social isolation, and cyber-bullying.

BULLYING IS:

- Intent to do harm
- Repeated over time
- Imbalance of power

SCOPE

This policy covers conduct that takes place in the school, on school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles, and at bus stops. This policy also pertains to usage of electronic technology and electronic communication that occurs in the school, on or off school property (if there is a substantial disruption at school), at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles, at bus stops, and on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists.

PREVENTITIVE MEASURES

1. Student Instruction/Awareness

Bullying will not be tolerated and all acts of bullying are prohibited. Students will do the following to ensure that all acts of bullying never occur at Sutter Middle School:

Student Rules about Bullying

- We will not bully others
- We will try to help others who are bullied
- We will include students who are left out
- If we know someone that is being bullied, we will promptly tell an adult at school and at home

2. Staff Awareness/Action

Staff at Sutter Middle School will engage in the following activities and actions in order to prevent bullying and maintain a safe environment for students:

- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school.
- Monitor for signs of bullying
- Address bullying when it happens
- Model appropriate behavior for students
- Additionally, the school will follow all SCUSD regulations and Education Code guidelines in order to prevent bullying. Sutter Middle School will raise bullying awareness and create opportunities for response training to bullying for staff.

3. Student/Parent Action

Sutter Middle School encourages students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying to immediately report the incident(s) to a school administrator for further investigation. Students who retaliate against those who report bullying may also be subject to investigation and disciplinary action.

4. Reporting Requirements

- Staff, students, parents and others are required to report bullying
- The Report of Suspected Bullying Form (located online or in the office) will be completed to document bullying behavior when bullying is observed or reported by students, parents or others
- The completed form is immediately given to the designated site administrator
- The designated site administrator investigates the allegations

ANONYMOUS REPORTING

- The district is utilizing the WeTip Bullying Report Hotline (1-855-86-BULLY)
- WeTip should be publically posted and all staff, parents, and students should be notified annually
- WeTip will contact the district's bullying prevention specialist, who will send it to the site administrator

RESPONSE PROCEDURES

- Designated site administrator will investigate all reports of bullying and determine if bullying occurred
- If the report meets the SCUSD's definition for bullying, the administrator will:
 - Create a written student safety plan for the targeted student
 - Create a written student action plan for the student who engaged in bullying behavior
 - Contact the parents/guardians of the students involved
- The safety and action plan are placed in the student's cum and a copy of all the paperwork gets sent to the bullying prevention specialist.

INTERVENTIONS/CONSEQUENCES:

Acts of bullying will be investigated by the site administration at Sutter Middle School in an efficient and timely manner. Consequences may include but are not limited to the following:

- Loss of privilege
- Parent conference
- Counseling
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Referral to local law enforcement agency.