

#### **4.3.6--STUDENT CONDUCT — BULLYING**

The Van Buren Board of Education, in recognition of the importance of a safe and secure school environment and the student's right to receive his/her education in an environment that is reasonably free from substantial intimidation, harassment, or harm or threat of harm by another student, expect all students to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is keeping with these interest and A.C. 6-18-514. To that end, bullying and hazing are prohibited while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events.

Bullying is defined as the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, defamation, ridicule, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable: physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to their property; substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education; a hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

A school employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a pupil has been a victim of bullying as defined by the district shall be required to report the incident to the principal. The person or persons who file a complaint of bullying will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form. A school principal or his/her designee who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken as a result of the investigation.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, that bullying is prohibited, and the consequences of engaging in bullying shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus in the district. Copies of the notice shall be provided to parents, students, school volunteers, and employees. A full copy of this law shall be made available upon request.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Verbal reprimand by a school employee. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Expulsion from school and filing of appropriate legal charges.

Ref Act 1437 A.C. 6-18-514

Approved by Board of Education 5/20/08

Amended by Board of Education 7/18/11