

BULLYING PREVENTION

DC Prep is committed to ensuring that our schools are safe and effective learning environments, free from bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior. DC Prep is committed to the prevention of bullying and creating an emotionally and physically safe school environment where all members of the community feel welcomed, safe and respected.

“Bullying”* means any severe, pervasive, or persistent act or conduct, whether physical, electronic or verbal that

1. May be based on a student’s actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, intellectual ability, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, place of residence or business, or any other distinguishing characteristic, or on a student’s association with a person, or group with any person, with one or more of the actual or perceived foregoing characteristics; and
2. Shall reasonably predicted to:
 - a. Place a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to his or her person or property;
 - b. Cause a substantial detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health;
 - c. Substantially interfere with the student’s academic performance or attendance;
 - d. Substantially interfere with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from school activities or services; or
 - e. Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also occurs when a student or group of students organize a campaign against another student or when a student or group of students maliciously spread rumors about another student. In most circumstances, bullying does not include a mutual fight between two students who are angry with each other. Such fights are subject to discipline according to the DC Prep Code of Conduct.

Bullying can also include cyberbullying – bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messaging, text messages, and Internet postings. Cyberbullying can include electronic communication through the use of the Internet and mobile technology such as web pages, discussion groups such as instant messaging, SMS text, Instagram, or Facebook with the intent of intimidating, harassing, or harming another person.

DC Prep aims to prevent bullying through promotion of positive and productive school culture to build safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for all students free from bullying. This approach includes professional development and staff training to cultivate positive school culture and healthy relationships as well as processes to intervene with students and administer consequences when necessary. Incidents of bullying are investigated using our Office Referral process. Supports and responses are determined according to our processes and adherence with our Code of Conduct. This means that we will follow our structured investigative process for any infraction or allegation, document using our investigative processes and tracking forms, and issue consequences based on our Code of Conduct.

BULLYING INVESTIGATION

Bullying is strictly prohibited at DC Prep. Administrators will make expectations clear to students and staff that bullying will not be tolerated and will be the grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal for students. Retaliation against anyone who reports bullying, provides information about an act of bullying, or witnesses an act of bullying is also prohibited. DC Prep will investigate and address all incidents of bullying that school staff know or reasonably should have known are occurring. To report concerns about bullying, families and students may contact the Community Assistant Principal or any other trusted school staff member.

**Adopted by DCPS from definition provided in the Youth Bullying Prevention Policy Act 2012*