

Community Learning Center Schools
HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION & BULLYING
POLICY

Community Learning Center Schools, Inc., and any charter schools operating thereunder believe all learners have the right to a safe and civil learning environment. Hereafter, Community Learning Center Schools, Inc. charter schools shall be referred to as “CLC Schools”. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors which interfere with learners’ ability to learn, negatively affect learner engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, CLC Schools prohibit any acts of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying related to school activity or school attendance. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means, consistent with this policy.

As used in this policy, “discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying” describe the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication, or cyberbullying, that is based on the actual or perceived characteristics of 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. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this policy.

To the extent possible, CLC Schools will make reasonable efforts to prevent learners from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, and address any reports of such behaviors in a timely manner. CLC Schools’ staff who witness acts of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying will take immediate steps to intervene, so long as it is safe to do so.

Definitions

“Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a learner or group of learners which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more learners that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable learner (defined as a learner, including, but is not limited to, a learner with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or learners in fear of harm to that learner’s or those learners’ person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable learner to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable learner to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.

4. Causing a reasonable learner to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the CLC Schools.

“Electronic Act” means the creation and transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of “bullying,” above.
 - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual learner for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a learner for the purpose of bullying the learner and such that another learner would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the learner was or is the learner who was impersonated.
 - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “False profile” means a profile of a fictitious learner or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual learner other than the learner who created the false profile.
3. Notwithstanding the definitions of “bullying” and “electronic act” above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

Reporting

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or bullying, to intervene as soon as it is safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this policy for reporting alleged acts of bullying.

All other members of the school community, including learners, parents/guardians, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to the Lead Facilitator or designee. While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to use the report form available in the Main Office. However, oral reports shall also be considered. Assistance in completing the complaint form may be requested by anyone for whom writing accommodations are required. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on anonymous information.

Learners are expected to report all incidents of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, bullying, teasing, or other verbal or physical abuse. Any learner who feels she/he is a target of

such behavior should immediately contact a facilitator, counselor, principal, or staff person so that she/he can get assistance in resolving the issue consistent with this policy.

CLC Schools acknowledge and respect every individual's rights to privacy. To that end, consistent with legal requirements, all reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process to the greatest extent possible.

CLC Schools prohibit any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter's filing of a complaint or the reporting of violations of this policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the reporter.

Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying from a learner, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of CLC Schools, the Lead Facilitator or designee will promptly initiate an investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Lead Facilitator or designee will notify the complainant of the outcome of the investigation. However, in no case may the Lead Facilitator or designee reveal confidential learner information related to other learners, including the type and extent of discipline issued against such learners.

Complaints shall be investigated and resolved within thirty (30) school days, unless circumstances reasonably require additional time. A written report of findings will be provided to the complainant in person and/or via USPS or FedEx, with signature upon delivery required.

All records related to any investigation of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying will remain in a secure location in the Main Office of the CLC School.

In those instances when the complaint filed under this policy also requires investigation under the Uniform Complaint Procedures, such investigation will be undertaken concurrently.

Appeal

Should the Complainant find the Lead Facilitator or designee resolution unsatisfactory, he/she may within five (5) school days of the date of resolution, file an appeal with the Executive Director, who will conduct a full investigation.

Consequences

Learners who engage in discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, as outlined in the Learner Discipline Policy of CLC Schools.

**HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION & BULLYING COMPLAINT
FORM**

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: _____

List any witnesses that were present: _____

Where did the incident(s) occur? _____

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what, if anything, did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize CLC Schools to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant

Date: _____

Print Name

To be completed by CLC Schools:

Received by: _____

Date: _____

Follow up Meeting with Complainant held on: _____