

### VES & VJPS Policy

**Bullying** is defined as negative actions deliberately initiated by one or more students. Physical or psychological intimidation occurs repeatedly over time to create an on-going pattern of harassment and abuse. These actions may include, but are not limited to: physical, verbal, and/or direct behaviors.

Students who are the victims of bullying, at any time by anyone, are encouraged to notify any school district employee who in turn, reports the alleged incidents to a building administrator who may contact parents, the school counselor, Student Support Team, or other appropriate school personnel. Grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever “bullying” is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any other time the school is being used by a school group;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, event, or any activity or event which bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the aggressive behavior may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a student, visitor, or staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

When there is substantial evidence of violation of this policy, the administration and/or Board of Education shall take appropriate action that may include, but not limited to, warning, detention, suspension, police contact and report, expulsion, and/or such other disciplinary action(s) as may be warranted.

### VJHS & VCHS Policy

**Bullying** is defined as negative actions deliberately initiated by one or more students. Physical or psychological intimidation occurs repeatedly over time to create an on-going pattern of harassment and abuse. These actions may include, but are not limited to : hitting, tripping, pushing, biting, pinching, spitting on, damaging property of, name-calling, insults, homophobic or racist remarks, verbal abuse, lying, spreading rumors, nasty jokes to embarrass, mimicking, social exclusion, damaging someone’s reputation and social acceptance, and encouraging anyone to do any of the above.

These actions may also be considered as “bullying” if they occur through email, text messaging, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, blogs, and on-line games. Any offensive or disrespectful postings that are reported and/or affect the operations of a school day will be considered bullying and handled by the administration as such.

Grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever “bullying” is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any other time the school is being used by a school group;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, event, or any activity or event which bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the aggressive behavior may be reasonably considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a student, visitor, or staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

Students, who are the victims of or witnesses to bullying at any time by anyone, are encouraged to notify any school district employee. When there is evidence of violation of this policy, the staff and administration and/or Board of Education will work collaboratively and shall take appropriate action that will include: parent contact, referral to the school counselor and Student Support Team, detention, suspension, police contact and report, and/or expulsion.

Instances in which retaliation to reports of bullying occur will automatically be subject to *at least the second level of consequences* as is stated in this handbook.