

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT / STUDENT SAFETY (JDDF)

The Western Line School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits

The District has adopted a zero-tolerance policy (Board Policy JDDA and JDDA-P) against bullying and sexual harassment. Such a statement sends a message to students, parents, staff and community that the school district believes school safety is important so that consistent prevention and response measures are available if and when a problem occurs.

Disciplinary Action

1. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment or bullying of anyone in the school setting will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
2. Any employee who permits or engages in sexual harassment or bullying of any student will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
3. Any employee who receives a complaint of sexual harassment from a student and who does not act promptly to forward the complaint to the principal or other personnel designated to receive notice of all sexual harassment complaints shall be disciplined appropriately.

Reporting Procedure or Investigation

1. The Board encourages and expects students to immediately report incidents of sexual harassment to any teacher, counselor, or administrator at the school site.
2. Any teacher, counselor or administrator who receives a report, verbal or in writing from any student regarding sexual harassment of that student or another student by a student or adult in the educational setting must forward the report to the building principal and central office personnel within twenty-four (24) hours, or within a reasonable extension of time.
3. All complaints of sexual harassment will be investigated and promptly resolved.
(See board Policy JDDA-P)

School employees with knowledge of an unlawful or violent act which occurs on school property or during a school activity must notify law enforcement officials (MS Code – Section 37-11-29).

House Bill 776 states the local school board shall have authority to suspend, expel, or reassign school placement for student for misconduct in the school, on the road to or from school, or at any related activity or events, or for misconduct on property other than school property or other than at a school related event.