

ANTI-BULLYING

I. General Statement of Policy

Lakes International Language Academy (the school) recognizes the negative impact that Bullying can have on the health and safety of students and the learning environment. Bullying can create distress, anxiety, decreased self-esteem, and feelings of isolation. Bullying materially and substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education and Is unacceptable in the educational environment.

The school endeavors to maintain a learning and working environment that is free of bullying. Toward that end, bullying is prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and activities, on school buses and other school-sponsored transportation and at school bus stops.

II. Definition of Bullying and Cyber-bullying

"Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and: there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in prohibited conduct and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

"Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet Website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device.

Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct may involve, but is not limited to, conduct that causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property; under Minnesota Common law, violates a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation,

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including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in chapter 363A. However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or chapter 363A.

III. Preventive Measures

This policy will be published annually in the student/parent handbook and be available on the school website. As an IB World School, the school embodies the IB Learner Profile, which makes it a practice of treating others fairly and respectfully. All Students will be informed that bullying will not be tolerated in any form. All students will be encouraged to report any bullying regardless of whether they are a victim or an observer.

When an investigation substantiates that bullying has occurred, the Executive Director or his/her Designee will inform the teachers who work with the offending student and the victim about the bullying so that those teachers can more closely monitor for future incidents of bullying. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken for bullying behavior. The primary purpose of such action is to protect the victim and deter such behavior in the future.

The School Board will review this policy at appropriate intervals to ensure that it is effective in its aims. As part of its review, the Board may require that a survey be conducted to determine the scope and extent of bullying.

IV. Reporting Procedures

- A. Victims. All students who believe they have been the victim of bullying shall promptly report the bullying to a teacher, the Executive Director or Designee.
- B. Parents. All parents who become aware of any bullying are encouraged to report the bullying to the Executive Director or Designee.
- C. Witnesses. All students who witness bullying shall immediately report the bullying to a teacher, the Executive Director or his or her Designee.
- D. School Staff. Any staff member who witnesses bullying or receives a report of bullying shall make a referral to the Executive Director or his or her Designee for appropriate action.

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- E. **Disciplinary Action.** Disciplinary action will be in accordance with Policy 308 *Student Discipline*. Disciplinary action involving dismissal shall be in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Anonymous reports of bullying will be allowed, but will not be relied on exclusively to determine discipline.

V. School Action

- A. Within three days of receipt of a complaint or report of bullying, the school shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school officials or a third party designated by the school.
- B. The school may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of bullying, consistent with applicable law.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the school will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior.
- D. Where appropriate, to prevent or respond to prohibited conduct, the school will modify a child's individualized education program or Section 504 plan to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs to avoid, respond to, or not engage in prohibited contact.
- E. The school is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students involved in a bullying incident and the remedial action taken, to the extent permitted by law, based on a confirmed report. The school may provide information about available community resources to affected individuals as appropriate.
- F. The school will annually collect, report, and analyze the summary data on prohibited conduct and remedial responses.

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VI. Reprisal

The school will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying.

Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, harassment or intentional disparate treatment.

VII. Training and Education

- A. The school will provide information through employee training materials and any applicable training to school staff regarding this policy. Professional Development will include:
1. Developmentally appropriate strategies to present and intervene in prohibited conduct;
 2. The complexity of the dynamics affecting persons implicated in the prohibited conduct;
 3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for prohibited conduct, including categories of students at risk for prohibited conduct;
 4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying
 5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.
- B. The school will provide education and information to students and parents through handbooks and school publications regarding bullying, including information regarding this school policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying.
- C. The school administration is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim and to make resources or referrals to resources available to victims of bullying.

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VIII. Notice

The school will post this policy on the school website.

Adopted: 17May04 KP

Amended: 11Nov10

Amended: 14Jul11

Amended: 18Aug14