



October 14, 2010

Dear Klein ISD Parent or Caregiver,

I want to take this opportunity to address an important issue: bullying. The topic has been the focus of several recent local news reports, and I want you to be aware of the district's stance on this national problem.

Klein ISD's bullying policy, taken directly from the elementary, intermediate, and high school student handbooks, is as follows: "Bullying will not be tolerated. For purposes of this handbook, bullying is defined as hitting, kicking, teasing, threatening, taunting, assaulting, or any other form of written, verbal, physical or electronic (cyberbullying) harassment toward another student. Should students feel as though they are victims of bullying, it is imperative that a teacher, counselor, or administrator be notified immediately."

Board of Trustees policy FFH (Local) also addresses bullying through a no tolerance stance against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. However, this letter is not simply about restating our bullying policy. We want you to know that we are committed to providing our children with a safe environment in which they may grow and learn.

Our principals and teachers are trained annually on how to prevent and address harassment in all forms, including bullying. Each campus librarian, K-12, provides instruction on digital citizenship, which addresses cyberbullying. Our counselors provide individual assistance for students and parents. They also help teach students how to avoid participating in bullying, and provide training on anger management, problem solving and learning empathy.

We positively engage students through peer mediation programs which help them learn to resolve conflicts without violence. We offer mentoring as a resource for students who might need more individual support. Also, there are a variety of anti-bullying programs implemented at our individual campuses, all geared toward character education with a focus on teaching respect, responsibility, integrity, initiative, and commitment. And our students are always encouraged to report bullying, whether they experience it or see it taking place.

Additionally, several years ago, Klein ISD created the Unite for Understanding Council, an active group of parents, community members, district and campus staff, and others who are committed to promoting tolerance. In 2009, the work of the council earned the district the "Community of Respect" designation from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and we are, thus far, the only school district with that distinction. Klein ISD also participates in the ADL's "No Place for Hate" program," an initiative which provides educators and students with the resources to ensure that anti-bias and diversity education are an integral part of learning. Thirty-two of our campuses have No Place for Hate clubs and that number grows each year.

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Included with this letter are some parent resources that address bullying and cyberbullying. While the district provides many anti-bullying training programs and resources, we realize that bullying does occur. Should your child ever feel that he or she has been bullied, do not hesitate to report it to a teacher, counselor, or administrator. We take bullying seriously and will take appropriate action to resolve conflicts.

We are partners with you in this effort to prevent bullying. We will be successful if we work together to teach our children respect and tolerance.

Sincerely,



James W. Cain
Superintendent

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