

Seashore Charter Schools

Anti-Bullying Policy

Seashore Charter Schools believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The schools and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

Defining “bullying:”

At Seashore Charter Schools, student conduct is considered “**bullying**” if it:

1. exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through:
 - written expression
 - verbal expression
 - expression through electronic means (cyberbullying)
 - physical contact;
2. interferes with a student’s education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.
3. occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school related activity or in a vehicle operated by the schools.

Bullying is continued abuse of power that is intentionally hurtful.

Bullying is **NOT** part of normal conflict.

Bullying is typically **NOT** a one-time occurrence

Bullying, in its most basic form, is abuse, harassment, and/or violence.

Seashore Charter Schools will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. A student shall not intimidate, harass, or bully another student through words or actions. Such behavior includes: direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation.

Reporting And Investigating Incidents Of Bullying

Seashore Charter Schools expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Staff who witness such acts take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Each complaint of bullying should be promptly investigated. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, and during a school-sponsored activity.

Students are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to a teacher or the campus director. Students can rely on staff to promptly investigate each complaint of bullying in a thorough and confidential manner.

Discipline

Any student who engages in bullying may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. If the complainant student or the parent of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached, the student or the parent of the student

should contact the campus director. The school system prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process.

Promoting A Bully-Free Learning Environment

To ensure bullying does not occur on school campuses, Seashore Charter Schools will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment

Teachers should discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Each school will adopt a Student Code of Conduct to be followed by every student while on school grounds, or when traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity.

The procedures for intervening in bullying behavior include, but are not limited, to the following:

- All staff, students, and their parents will receive a summary of this policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying: at the beginning of the school year, as part of the student handbook and/or information packet, as part of new student orientation, and as part of the school system's notification to parents.
- The school will make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying and the results of investigation confidential.
- Staff who witness acts of bullying shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. People witnessing or experiencing bullying are strongly encouraged to report the incident; such reporting will not reflect on the target or witnesses in any way.
- Seashore Charter Schools will maintain a Bullying Reporting Form on the homepage of their website (www.seashorecharterschools.com) for students and parents to report potential incidents of bullying. Bullying incidents may also be reported to the schools by email, phone, or in-person message.
- Participation in Red Ribbon Week
- Good Citizens Ticket Program
- Incorporation of Commitment to Bully-Free Learning Environment into campus mission statements
- Declaration of Respect Initiative