

Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy

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The State Board of Education believes that Ohio schools should provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. It is the goal of the State Board of Education, through the *School Climate Guidelines* and this policy, to foster a positive school climate.

The State Board defines a positive climate as one which evokes non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance, toward all students and staff in, and in transit to and from, the school environment.

The State Board of Education directs the Ohio Department of Education to:

(A) Provide schools with model policies and strategies that eliminate negative behaviors, recognize positive behaviors that promote safe and secure learning environments of all students and staff, and provide information to schools that helps identify and address issues such as bullying, intimidation, and harassment that occurs between students, groups of students, and school personnel.

(B) Disseminate information and provide professional development in regard to model strategies and practices to assist the implementation of local policies. The department also will disseminate information on programs that promote state level efforts to assist schools in achieving positive behavior environments, including anti-bullying programs.

- (C) Design a plan and process to evaluate the effects of this policy
- 1). Conduct a policy audit identifying state-level policies that promote or inhibit the development of positive school climates;
 - 2). Provide a tool for schools to conduct a policy audit identifying local policies that promote or inhibit the development of positive school climates.
 - 2). Collect data to determine the impact of this policy.